

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you’re welcome here.”**

300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079

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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

February 5, 2023

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

† Those who are able, may stand.

CHIMES

Here I Am, Lord

PRELUDE

Gather Us In

WELCOME

Dr. Guerreno

Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome here. Many thanks to all who are here for this worship service. Greetings to those of you with us on the Facebook Livestream. And a big thank you to all who are helping with this morning's worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

† **HYMN**

Let It Shine
SPP 196 vs 1 & 3

† **CALLING ON GOD AND OPENING PRAYER**

Kathy Cilluffo

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts and your voices!

We lift them to God.

Lift up your spirits! Lift up your minds!

We lift them to God.

Let there be peace and purpose in this place.

Let there be boldness and challenge, new awareness and fresh understanding.

Let there be worship, in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Amen!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Creating and Loving God, gather us as one. Gather our scattered selves, our fragmented lives, our separate dreams and our solitary dwelling places – gather us as one, that we would be now, again, your waiting and hopeful people, your church, the body of your Christ. Gather us and speak to us in ways we understand. Hold us close and give us something to do. Show us your way and help us to follow it. Gather us now, again, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

(The children will be excused now)

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 111, TEV
Kathy Cilluffo

MUSICAL MEDITATION

There are Some Things

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-17, TEV
Dr. Guerreno

SERMON

“What Is Always Wrong With Every Church”
Dr. Guerreno

† HYMN

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim
NCH305 vs 1 & 4

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY

OFFERTORY

Eye Has Not Seen

†OFFERTORY RESPONSE

For the Beauty of the Earth
NCH28 vs 1

For the beauty of the earth,
for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We bring gifts, Holy God, and we are sure you notice. We bring gifts here and now, and we know you know. Help us to remember other gifts are out there, as well, gifts we can bring to other places at other times, knowing you will notice that, too. We bring gifts, Holy God. Help us bring them as needed, where needed and when needed, that your Christ would be known in us and through us. We pray in his name.
Amen.**

COMMUNION

Invitation;
Sharing the Story;
Blessing the Elements;
The Meal is Served;
Thanksgiving after the Meal.

† CLOSING HYMN

Called in Partners in Christ's Service
NCH495 vs 1 & 4

† BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer



One License #A720797

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...

Eric Fandruck, the Family of Cliff Freeland, II, Joan Westbrook, Matthew Pennewell, Emerson Stone, Jan Yager, Rachel O'Connor, Gary Westbrook, Marge Guinther, Barb Jeffries, Genie Lucyk, Ann Whittaker. Also, remember Edwin Summers, Cameron Coverly (Army-deployed in Europe), Nathan Distelrath, all who are serving in the military, first responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Don Rice

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Cal Eschenburg, Dave Scheel

READER: Kathy Cilluffo

POWER POINT: Jody Skonieczny

COMMUNION: Cathy Light

NEXT WEEK'S READER: Pat O'Connor

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

"Abraham Lincoln: A Biographical Sermon"

Psalms 146 Matthew 5:13-16 Gettysburg Address

2/12/23 - NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Kathy Tricomo

MUSIC: Denise Gregg, Anna Moore

USHERS: Jim Light, Doug Johnson

READER: Pat O'Connor

POWER POINT: Sam Tricomo

2/19 – READER: Don Rice

OPEN AND AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE CHURCH COVENANT

The members of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, declare that we are a fully inclusive, Open and Affirming Congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and believe that all people are children of God. As such, we welcome to the community of faith all people of diverse race, physical and mental abilities, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, and socio-economic status. We covenant to provide to all a safe, loving, nurturing and compassionate community.

~CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS~

INTERIM CHUCK GUERRENO

Chuck can be reached at the church 10:00 – 4:30 Thursday through Friday, 11:00 – 4:30 on Saturday, and 8:00 – noon on Sunday. Chuck can also be reached at stclairinterim@gmail.com and (989) 980-0061.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be today, immediately following worship.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee is continuing to update the church profile. In order to find the right pastor for our congregation, we are asking for your input! On Sunday, February 19 at the end of the service, we will be distributing a short survey. Please take 5 minutes to complete the survey. We value your participation! The search committee members are: Co-Chairs Avery Skonieczny & Don Rice, Rose Crowley, Mike Kennedy, Don O'Connor. Kathy Rood, Kathy Cilluffo, Sam Tricomo, Vicki Kling and Ash Currie. We are available for your questions and concerns regarding the pastoral search in person or email at firstcongsc@gmail.com.

CURIOUS ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

If you're wondering about becoming a church member, please speak with Pat O'Connor or Chuck to set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is Sunday School for children aged 5-12. The children will be excused to attend Sunday school following the opening prayer. Teachers and an assistant teacher will bring the children to the Lounge after class has ended. There is a nursery where parents may go with their younger children if they choose to. It's a comfortable room where children may play. There is a changing table in the bathroom in the lounge.

PASTOR'S EMERGENCY FUND

Our Communion Offerings are usually placed in a Pastor's Emergency Fund. Those needing emergency assistance are screened and, when available, funds are provided.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

This small pantry is a community outreach program sponsored by The Mission Team of this church. It is stocked twice-weekly with non-perishable food. Donation requests may change but the need to feed does not.

The color of February
is always RED.
The RED Food Pantry
helps make sure the hungry are fed.

February Pantry Needs
(1) Kraft mac & cheese
(2) Mashed potatoes (box or pouch)
(3) Hearty soups
(4) Valentine sweets
cake mix/frosting, candy, etc.

For Pets - Canned cat or dog food

Please leave your food donations in the elevator room on the shelves labeled THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY.

Any questions...please call Nancy Kennedy @810-329-3790.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you are interested in donating altar flowers, please contact Bev Stewart at (810) 329-2147 or (810) 300-2664

HYMN LYRICS

HYMN

Let It Shine
SPP 196 vs 1 & 3

Refrain:

Let it shine, let it shine,
the light of the world that shows the way;
let it shine, let it shine,
and show us peace today.

The church bears witness to God's grace,
its mission crystal clear;
to show the world God's human face,
a world that God holds dear.

Refrain:

Let it shine, let it shine,
the light of the world that shows the way;
let it shine, let it shine,
and show us peace today.

Now let us give ourselves to God,
within this war-torn world,
and work till justice walks
abroad with flags of peace unfurled.

Refrain:

Let it shine, let it shine,
the light of the world that shows the way;
let it shine, let it shine,
and show us peace today.

HYMN

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim
NCH305 vs 1 & 4

You servants of God,
your Sovereign proclaim,
and publish abroad
that wonderful name:
The name, all victorious,
of Jesus extol,
who, sovereign and glorious,
now rules over all.

Then let us adore
and render God's right,
all glory and power,
all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing
with angel's above,
and thanks never ceasing
and infinite love.

HYMN

Called in Partners in Christ's Service
NCH495 vs 1 & 4

Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.

So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.

Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith,
thus giving hope
and confidence and peace